

Bureau of Land Management

Boise Smokejumpers

ACTION SUMMARY 1998

BLM BOISE SMOKEJUMPERS

Action Summary 1998

1998 was an average fire season in the western United States. The BLM Boise Smokejumpers put 488 firefighters on 96 fires in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Idaho. Most activity occurred in Nevada with 54% (52) of the fires jumped out of Battle Mountain, Elko, Winnemucca, Minden, and Ely. Colorado accounted for 25% of the action with 24 fires, while the other states accounted for a total of 23 fires. The first fire was on April 22 in Montana and the last was in California on September 4.

Four smokejumpers successfully completed initial ram-air parachute training. This included 2 rookies and 2 transfers from the USFS.

The Boise smokejumpers provided personnel to the West Yellowstone Interagency Smokejumper base and received smokejumper support from the Russian exchange program.

1998 showed a significant increase of Boise smokejumper participation in prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction projects in the Great Basin. Boise smokejumpers executed prescribed burns for land managers in Idaho, New Mexico Arizona, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon.

Summary Statistics:

Crew configuration: 65

	63	Smokejumpers
	1	Smokejumper Pilot
1		Staff Assistant

Fires attacked: 96

85	Jumped
9	Driven
2	Hiked from previous fire

Smokejumpers on fire: 488

IA effectiveness (time from IA to containment <24 hours):

IA fires	57/60 (95%)
Reinforcement fires	4/5 (80%)

Training and experimental jumps: 823

Total jumps: 1,275

Visiting jumpers used in Boise operations: 180 36.88 %

Alaska	96
McCall	39
Russia	27
West Yellowstone	3
Redding	2
Grangeville	13

Boise jumpers used in other smj operations: 130

Alaska	14
R-1	68
R-4	25
R-6	15
Russia	8

Fires by location:

State	# fires	Owner	District	# fires
California	4	USFS	Carson	4
Colorado	24	BLM	Craig	4
		BLM	Grand Junction	12
		STATE	Jefferson	1
		USFS	Bears Ear	1
		USFS	Clear Creek	1
		USFS	Grand Junction	2
		USFS	Pueblo	3
Idaho	5	BLM	Shoshone	1
		USFS	Boise	1
		USFS	Garden Valley	1
		USFS	Lowman	1
		USFS	Twin Falls	1
Montana	3	BLM	Ft. Howes1	
		USFS	Kalispel	1
		USFS	West Fork	1
Nevada	52	BLM	Battle Mountain	3
		BLM	Elko	14
		BLM	Ely	29
		BLM	Winnemucca	4
		USFS	Ely	1
		USFS	Minden	1
New Mexico	1	USFS	Taos	1
Oregon	2	BLM	Lakeview	2
Utah	8	BLM	Moab	4
		BLM	Richfield	1
		NPS	Hovenweep	1
		USFS	Moab	1
		USFS	Vernal	1

Fire missions by departure point:

Battle Mountain	17
Boise	7
Canyon City	1
Elko	2
Ely	31
Grand Junction	31
Lakeview	2
Minden	3
Wendover	5

Fires by Cause:

Arson	1
Children	3
Lightning	91
Unknown	1

Fire size distribution	# of fires		% growth from arrival to control
A (.1-.24 ac.)	31	(31.31%)	0
B (.24-9ac.)	31	(31.31%)	18
C (10-99 ac.)	26	(26.26%)	20
D (100-299 ac.)	10	(10.10%)	55
E (300-999 ac.)	1	(1.01%)	60
F (1000-4999 ac.)	0	(0.00%)	0
G (5000+ ac.)	0	(0.00%)	0

Number of Smokejumpers per fire:

2	36/96	(37.50%)
3-4	14/96	(14.58%)
5-6	10/96	(10.41%)
7-8	32/96	(33.33%)
8+	4/96	(4.16%)

Jumper/fire statistics, 1988-1998

Year	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Smjs	140	236	237	122	133	147	827	282	1245	232	488
Fires	38	52	58	40	43	32	167	72	239	41	96

Parachuting injuries:

Injury	Category	Date	Cause
Broken wrist	Serious	5-7-98	Hard landing
Lacerated knee	Serious	9-6-98	Hard landing

* MTDC Parachute Landing Injury Data System categories are used here. They are:

Minor Injury: AAny injury that removes a jumper from jump status for 1 week or less, but allows the jumper to perform light duty with no lost time due to the injury.@

Serious Injury: AAny injury that exceeds the definition of a minor injury.@

Prescribed Fire Summary

Prescribed fire projects: 34

Rx Burns:	32+
Non-fire hazard fuel reduction:	2
Burn plans written:	11
Acres burned:	32,000
Mechanical fuel reduction acres	11
Smokejumpers on projects:	218
Person days on projects:	1200+

Projects By Agency

USFS	7 Projects	10,730 acres	3 Forests
USFWS	2 Projects	Approx.1500 acres	2 Refuges
NPS	5 Projects	6055 acres	5 Parks
BLM	12 Projects	13,000 acres	5 Districts

BLM BOISE SMOKEJUMPERS RX FIRE ACTION 1998

Project Name	Location	Project Type	# Smjs	Person Days	Acres
Rawlins (burn plans)	WY-BLM	Write burn plans (winter)	3	21	5000+ planned
Clay Creek BOF	ID-USFS	Prescribed Fire (spring)	6	18	830
Pine Creek BOF	ID-USFS	Prescribed Fire (spring)	6	12	500
Grimes Creek	ID-USFS	Prescribed Fire (spring)	6	18	6000
Miles City (burn plans)	MT-BLM	Lay out units; write plans (spr)	1	10	1100 planned
7W - 6X	MT-BLM	Site Prep, Prescribed Fire(spring)	8	40	480
Juniper Burn	MT-BLM	Site Prep (Ignition Canceled) (spr)	8	16	13
Brewer Custer nf	MT-USFS	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spr)	8	32	1200
Kellog Canyon	NM-BLM	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spr)	4	4	279
Horse Mt.	NM-BLM	Mechanical Fuel Reduction (spr)	4	24	6
Chavez	NM-BLM	Prescribed Fire (spring)	4	28	100
Pelona Mt.	NM-BLM	Prescribed Fire (spring)	4	24	1000
Pelona Mt.	NM-BLM	Mechanical Fuel Reduction (spr)	4	8	5
Yainex Burn	OR-BLM	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spr)	10	70	1200
Timber Hill	OR-BLM	Prescribed Fire (spr)	10	30	100
Norcross	OR-BLM	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spr)	10	120	1765
Estates 1&2	OR-BLM	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spr)	10	20	260
Haymaker	OR-BLM	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spr)	10	40	30
Rx School Fl.	FL-USFS	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spring)	4	120	1600
Grand Canyon	AZ-NPS	Site Prep & Prescribed Fire (spring)	8	112	2500
Cedar City(burn plan)	UT-USFS	Lay out units; write plans (spr)	2	14	1880 planned
Hart Mtn.(FWS)	OR-FWS	Prescribed Fire (fall)	3	15	1000
Gerber(Lakeview BLM)	OR-BLM	Prescribed Fires(multi) 9/20/98	15	in progress	7000 to date
Grand Canyon (multiple)	AZ-NPS	Site Prep & Prescribe Fires (fall)	5	15	155
Hog, Coconino NF	AZ-USFS	Prescribed Fire (fall)	5	10	600
Chimineia #2-Seguro NP	AZ-NPS	Prescribed Fire (fall)	14	168	2000
Cerritos Gap-El Malpais	NM-NPS	Prescribed Fire (fall)	4	7	1200
Burn plans-GBNP	NV-NPS	Lay out units; write plans (fall)	3	24	500 planned
Baker/Osceola-GBNP	NV-NPS	Prep. (Ignition cancelled) (fall)	10	80	200
Baker/Osceola-GBNP	NV-NPS	Prescribed Fire (fall)	6	24	200
Juniper(Miles City BLM)	MT-BLM	Prescribed Fire (fall)	10	20	300
Billings (burn plans)	MT-BLM	Lay out unit; write plan (fall)	2	48	250
Lewistown	MT-BLM	Lay out unit; write a plan (fall)	1	2	2400 planned

Lewistown	MT-BLM	Prescribed Fire-multi- burns (fall)	10	20	300
Totals			218	1,200+	30,618+